

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter.

Claims 23-27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite the limitations of Claims 10 and 21. Claims 10 and 21 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-7, 11-18 and 22 remain pending in the instant application.

The Title of the instant application has been amended. The Specification has been amended. Applicant asserts that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 11-20 and 22-27 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being allegedly unpatentable over Heinonen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,151,764 B1) (hereinafter Heinonen) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,346) (hereinafter Kobayashi).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claims 10 and 21 respectively. As such, independent Claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Heinonen in view of

Kobayashi. Dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency.
Claims 8-9, 19-20 and 23-27 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby
obviating the rejection. As such, Claims 1-7, 11-18 and 22 are in condition for
allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-7, 11-18 and 22 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1-7, 11-18 and 22 is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 50-4160.

Respectfully submitted,
MURABITO, HAO & BARNES LLP

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